

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto is one (1) sheet of corrected formal drawings that complies with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. The corrected formal drawings incorporate the following drawing changes:

In FIG. 6, one of the reference sign 4b' (the left one) has been corrected to be the reference sign 4a'.

It is respectfully requested that the corrected formal drawings be approved and made a part of the record of the above-identified application.

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1-6 and 8-10 are now present in the application. The abstract, drawings and claims 1, 5, 9 and 10 have been amended. Claim 7 has been cancelled. Claim 1 is independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that dependent claims 3, 7 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant greatly appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

By the present amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 7, as discussed hereinbelow.

Specification Objection

The abstract has been objected to due to the presence of minor informalities. In view of the foregoing amendments, in which the Examiner's helpful suggestions have been followed, it is respectfully submitted that this objection has been addressed. Accordingly,

Applicant respectfully submits that this objection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections are respectfully requested.

Drawings Objections

The drawings have been objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) and 1.83(a). Applicant has submitted one (1) sheet of corrected formal drawings to address the Examiner's requested changes. In particular, Applicant respectfully submits that amended FIG. 6 shows an embodiment of the rotor of the electric motor recited in claim 9. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that these objections have been obviated and/or rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's drawings objections are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this objection has been addressed. Specifically, although the Examiner indicated that "the braking engagement" in lines 20-21 lacks proper antecedent basis, Applicant respectfully submits that original

claim 1 in line 13 does provide a proper antecedent basis for the term in issue. Accordingly, all pending claims are now definite and clear. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are therefore respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP-10331864. Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP-10331864 in view of Kuivamaki, U.S. Patent No. 5,853,165. Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP-10331864 in view of Samejima, U.S. Patent No. 6,352,243. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As mentioned, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 7, which was indicated by the Examiner as including allowable subject matter. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 1 and its dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but merely to show the state of the prior art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

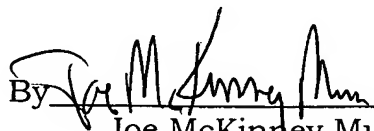
It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Joe McKinney Muncy, Registration No. 32,334 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

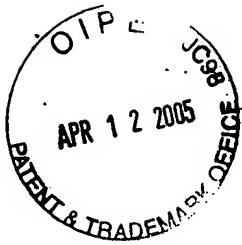
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By 
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ANNOTATED MARKED UP DRAWING

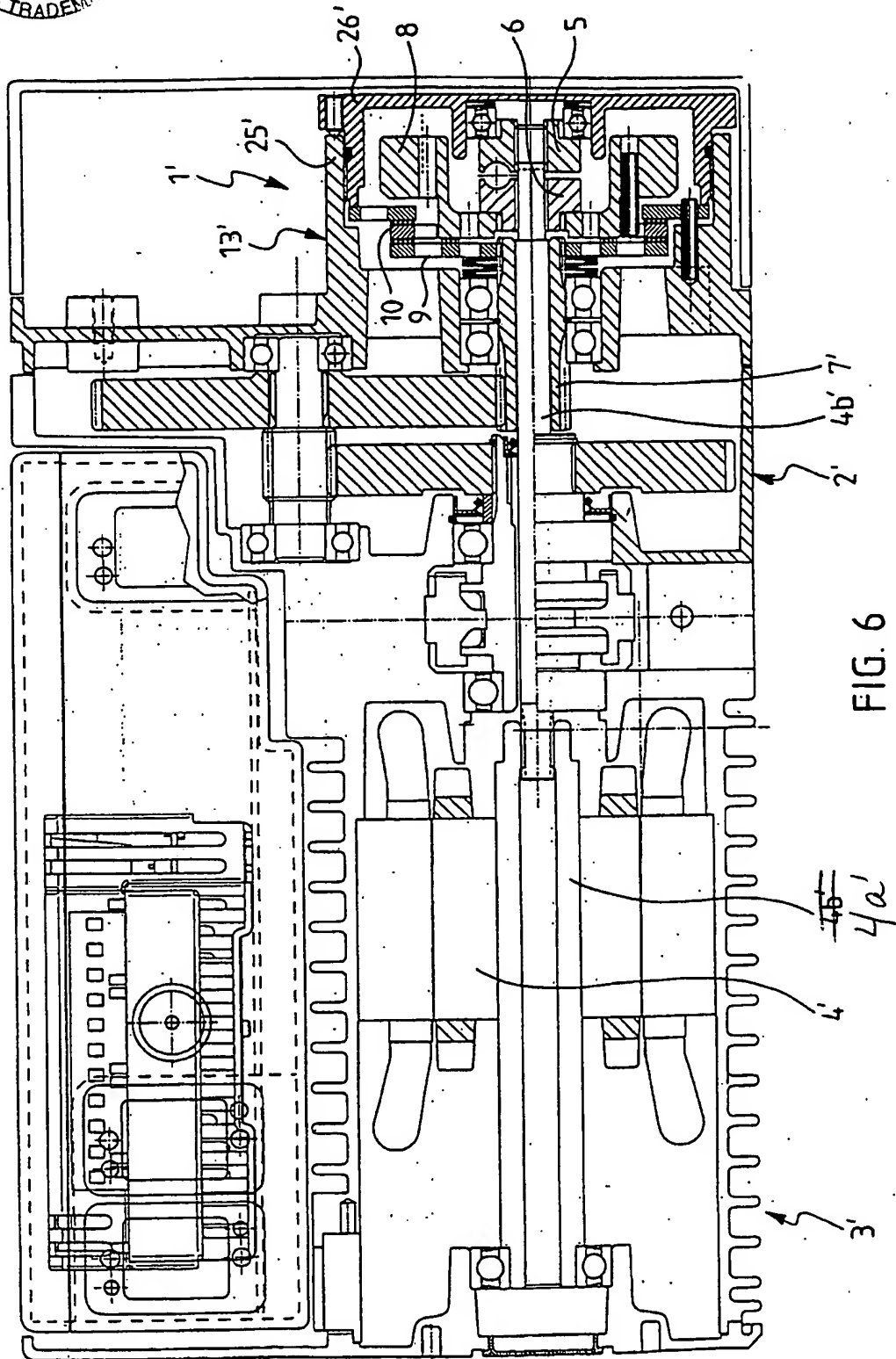


FIG. 6